Mani, K. T. Mathew, K. Mohamed Seethi, C. A. Ouseph, Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan and A. Sankara Menon were absent.

Congratulatory Statement.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Sir, I request your indulgence to make a statement.

President.—Yes.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—On behalf of the non-official members of this Council, I have very great pleasure in felicitating and congratulating you on the high honour that His Highness the Maharaja and the Government have been pleased to confer upon you (*Hear, hear*) upon you a non-official member and also upon another non-official member of this Council. I regret very much the unavoidable absence of the Diwan, the officiating Diwan and the Deputy President in the deliberations of this momentous session. But we rejoice that a suggestion regarding the formation of a panel of chairmen, made by some of the non-official members during this Budget Session, came to be presently accepted; and in this reform, so readily ushered in, we see the hand of Providence, guiding the destinies of this august Council, and pointing out in unmistakable terms, our fitness for further constitutional reform. We assure you of our hearty co-operation and we feel confident that in the conduct of the proceedings of this Council you will scrupulously maintain the dignity of the House and safeguard its privileges and discharge your onerous duties with cold-blooded impartiality. We wish you every success. (*Hear, hear*).

President.—Hon'ble Members of the Cochin Legislative Council, by the gracious kindness of His Highness our beloved Maharaja I have been elevated to this position and I trust, with the co-operation of the Members of this Council, I shall be able to justify the selection that has been made (*Hear, hear*). Earnestly appealing to both sides of the House for their unstinted support in the discharge of my duty, I wish to enter upon the business of the day. First item, questions and answers.

Questions and Answers.

Transport of timber by the Anamalais Timber Trust.

301. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar:—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) the quantity of timber transported by the Anamalais Timber Trust during their 1st year's contract according to the terms of the agreement;

(2) and the transport charges paid by them;

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